

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Walter Müller
Serial No. : 10/163,752 Confirmation No. : 2091
Filing Date : June 6, 2002

REMARKS

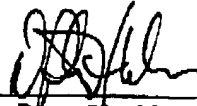
In the Office Action mailed April 24, 2003, the Examiner has rejected claims 16-22. Applicant herein cancels claims 16-22 and adds new claims 23-32. Support for new claims 23, 25, 28 and 30 can be found in original claims 1 and 2; support for new claims 24 and 29 can be found in the specification on page 2, lines 22-23. Support for new claims 26 and 31 can be found in the specification on page 3, lines 19-22, and support for new claims 27 and 32 can be found in the specification on page 4, line 5.

Applicant respectfully states that none of the cited references indicate that medical swabs may be stored in a storage device according to applicant's invention or in flexible blister packages as those disclosed in cited prior art. Thus the method for storing medical swabs is neither disclosed in cited prior art nor has been made obvious to the skilled artisan at the time applicant's invention was made.

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and such action is requested. No new matter has been added. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if there are any matters which could be discussed to expedite the prosecution of the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____


D. Peter Hochberg
Reg. No. 24,603

DPH/KRV
D. Peter Hochberg Co., L.P.A.
The Baker Building - 6th Floor
1940 East 6th Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44114 / (216) 771-3800